

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 1 and 11 being amended, and new Claims 12 and 13 being added. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Andrews et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,178). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

The present invention is directed to an electronic equipment having a mounting structure for mounting various electronic parts onto a circuit board. Specifically, the equipment includes a casing with a top panel, a circuit board, and a plurality of stay members (such as members 9, 10, and 11 shown in the figures). Electronic parts, such as faders and button switches, are mounted onto the circuit board. Some of the electronic parts include shafts, such as shown as 7a2, 7b2, and 7c2, for manual operating elements such as 7a1, 7b1, and 7c1. The shafts extend from the electronic parts through the insertion holes of the top panel and are preferably attached to the bottom of the manual operating elements.

Andrews does not contain any disclosure of mounting electronic parts having shaft portions. Andres discloses an electronics package comprised of a first panel 40, a securing member 30a, a circuit plate 12 for mounting components 22, and a second panel 42. However, as shown in the drawings of Andrews, all of the electronic components are completely covered on top by both the first and second panels, and do not include any protrusions through either of the panels. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 is not anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, Andrews.

The Examiner rejected Claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koike et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,031,732). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4-6 are dependent from Claim 1. As discussed above, Andrews does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of mounting electronic parts having shafts. Koike fails to make up for the deficiencies of Andrews. Koike is directed to an electronic apparatus having a first panel 120, a second panel 110, a stay member 140, and a circuit board 130 for mounting electronic parts 131. Koike simply does not show electronic parts having shaft portions for protruding through a top panel, as recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 4-6 are not anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, Koike.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 393032041400. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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